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* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" As the time for questions has passed, the Council will proceed to the next item on the agenda." 12 noon.

[*Note*.—**An asterisk (*) at the commencement of a speech indicates revision by the member.]**

III

SELECT COMMITTEE ON THE MALABAR TENANCY BILL.

The hon. Mr. A. Y. G. CAMPBELL :—" Mr. President, Sir, I beg to move—

'*that Messrs. E. Sankaran Unni and A. Achuthan, Members of this Council, be added to the Select Committee appointed on the* 6*th August* 1929 *to consider the Malabar Tenancy Bill* (*Bill No.* 9 *of* 1929).' "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—" I second the motion, Sir."

Mr. MUPPIL NAYAR OF KAVALAPPARA :—" Mr. President, Sir, I beg to move—

'*That the following names be added to the list of members of the Select Committee on the Malabar Tenancy Bill* :—

(1) *Mr T. C. Srinivasa Ayyangar.*
(2) *Raja of Kallikote.*
(3) *Kumararaja of Venkatagiri.*
(4) *The Zamindar of Seithur.*' "

The ZAMINDAR OF SINGAMPATTI :—" I second the motion, Sir."

* Mr. K. MADHAVAN NAYAR :—" Mr. President, Sir, I am very sorry that I have to oppose the motion made by the hon. Friend Mr. Kavalappara Muppil Nayar. You know, Sir, that we have been for some time past experiencing difficulties in the constitution of Select Committees. For instance, the Mover of a Bill proposes the names of certain members and places the motion before the Council and when it comes up for consideration by the Council, other names are indiscriminately suggested by other members, with the result that the Select Committee becomes unwieldy and ceases to be properly representative or fit to consider the question. Every one in the Council is anxious to remove that difficulty. It is with that object we have been for some time past attempting to make a convention in this House to suggest names in consultation with the Leaders of parties and then place the list before the Council. We succeeded in this effort so far as the Malabar Tenancy Bill was concerned. For this Select Committee, Leaders of parties were consulted and the names that were proposed by the mover were names that were approved by all parties in the House. If any Member had any objection or if they wanted that more names should be added to the Committee, they ought to have suggested the names to the Mover of the Bill or to their leader or could have mentioned it in the House at the time. Nothing of that sort was done. I know, as a matter of fact, that several members of my party who wanted to be on the Select Committee had to subordinate their desire to the wish of the party. It was under such circumstances that the Committee was constituted and it was also placed before the Council and passed on the understanding that the two expert Members who were not then sworn in and who could only come in later, would be added on to the list of members for the Select Committee. That was the only understanding then. Now the hon. Mr. Campbell has made a motion to add the said two special members to the Select Committee. I do not now

see any reason why a motion should be made by any Member of this Council, to-day to add more members especially by a Member who was present all along. Why should he now make a motion for the addition of four more members, while he could have moved it at the time the select committee was constituted. I also see another motion by my hon. Friend Mr. Narayana Raju to add four more names. I am sure if my point that no new members should be added on is agreed to by the Council, my hon. Friend Mr. Narayana Raju will not move his motion, for which I can give even an assurance on his behalf. My submission, therefore to you, Sir, is this, that we ought not to tolerate such new additions, indiscriminately at any stage, and that we ought to establish a wholesome convention in this House in matters like this. On this ground, Mr. President, I most vehemently oppose the motion. As a matter of fact, the Select Committee also sat once, yesterday and the date of the next meeting has also been fixed. Whatever that may be, I am more concerned with this, that it ought to be established as a convention in this House that Select Committees should be constituted in consultation with Leaders of parties and that no new names should be indiscriminately added on at any stage, as that will lead to all sorts of difficulties and complications. I therefore appeal to the hon. the Leader of the House as well as the Leaders of the various parties to support me in this opposition and to discourage the motion that has been made for the addition of new members."

Mr. E. Sankaran Unni:—"Mr. President, Sir, I am extremely sorry to rise on this occasion to make a speech. At first, I thought it was an innocent motion, but the hon. Member for Malabar has raised the question of convention and convenience, but the basis on which the motion is made if this, that in a House which consists of fairly a large number of members representing landed interests, it is rather very remarkable that very few, if at all any, have been included in the list. Sir, as the House knows very well, it is a very complicated question to deal with land tenure and this question is much more complicated here than in any other Presidency. I expect that members of the aristocracy who are dealing with this problem every day would be in a position to guide the deliberations of the committee much more successfully than vakils or other professional men who may be able to guide us in other respects much better. I am sure that in a matter like this where the landlords are in a minority and where they feel so strongly, there ought to be sufficient representation. I am surprised to see the hon. Member who, I believe, speaks for a considerable section of this House though not as a Leader, rising in his place to oppose this motion on grounds of technicalities and convenience. As regards convenience, Government have found it necessary to include two names now. If you add a few more names it does not matter much. As regards the question of convention, I really do not know anything about it. Of course, I am absolutely incompetent to speak and this is the first utterance that I make in this Council. I do not wish to say what exactly the convention of the House should be. But, whatever the convention or the convenience of the House may be, I hope the House will consider this matter favourably. The landlords form a small party and they deserve to be encouraged. I do not think I should consider myself justified in rising to-day and appealing to Government to consider the matter. We consider that the Bill affects the vital interests of Malabar tenancy. I do not think that the Government would lose anything by adding a few more names, but I am quite sure that this would infuse a little

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more confidence in the minds of the landed aristocracy in Malabar. While there is nothing to be lost there is a great deal to be gained. Why not give us this chance and neither the House nor the Government will lose anything. I think when a fair proposal of this kind is made, I should have expected the representatives of tenants to say to the landed aristocracy: 'come in, we shall be ready to give you all consideration we can, and we won't stand in your way'. Accordingly, here is Kavalappara Muppil Nayar's motion. So Mr. President, I appeal to Government as well as to the Members of the House to take this matter very seriously into consideration and to give us a chance now."

Mr. K. P. Raman Menon:—"Mr. President, I rise to oppose the motion of my hon. Friend Mr. Muppil Nayar. The hon. the Revenue Member has mentioned the names of members who have the confidence of the House in regard to this question. Now, Mr. Muppil Nayar thinks that the landed aristocracy is not properly represented and it is left to Mr. Unni, the new Member."

Mr. E. Sankaran Unni:—"It was not I that moved the motion, but Mr. Kavalappara."

Mr. K. P. Raman Menon:—"Of course he did not move the motion, but he inspired the motion and put it in the motion of Mr. Kavalappara that the landed aristocracy is not represented. I suppose when the hon. the Revenue Member when he took all these matters into consideration, must have bestowed some attention on this and consulted the Leaders of parties, who must have in turn bestowed their very best attention, so that the proposition that is now put forward is sprung upon the House as a surprise and should not be allowed. The Committee as it is now with the two experts, number 24. Of course, we have to deal with intricate and complicated questions, but as a matter of fact, the Raghavayya Committee and the various other Government committees have made this work specially easy as much as possible. If more members are added, it will certainly take more time and they will have to sit for an indefinite number of days, so that the enquiry will also be prolonged. Naturally, Mr. Unni is anxious as any one in Malabar with reference to this legislation that it must be settled as early as possible. I for one do not think that the tenants are going to be affected, much more than landholders, so that it is a matter on which we must bestow our best attention and see that no delay is caused. This is a matter in which no delay can be made. A motion that is calculated to see that the matter is prolonged beyond a reasonable length ought to be negatived by this House and I therefore strongly protest against the addition of any more members and I appeal to the House to see that the proceedings of the Committee are expedited as far as possible and that the Report is submitted to the Council as early as possible. On these grounds, I oppose the motion for the addition of the four members."

Mr. K. Koti Reddi:—"Mr. President, Sir, I am really surprised at the attitude taken by Mr. Unni. It is not our complaint that the landed interests should not be represented in this Select Committee. As a matter of fact, it has been a standing grievance in this Council that the names of members of the Select Committee have been suggested indiscriminately by members without consulting either the Member in charge of the Bill or the Leaders of parties, with the result that it is very difficult to oppose such a motion as that. When actually moved with that experience before us, this useful and

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desirable convention has been established in this Council for some time past, viz., the Leaders of parties and the Member in charge of the Bill should be consulted before the names are suggested by members.

12-15 p.m. "Not only that, ordinarily under the Standing Orders only 15 members are allowed for Select Committees. In this case a special concession has already been made to increase that number. I believe when members for the Select Committee on this Bill were proposed, hon. Members representing the landed aristocracy were present in this Council and if they had any grievance in the composition of the Committee, and if there is any complaint that the landed aristocracy were not duly represented on it, then was the time to raise their voice against the personnel of the Committee. And now at this late stage, to ask for more representation on that ground seems to be absolutely illogical and unreasonable. Moreover, Sir, the Select Committee is fairly representative now, and I believe the acquisition to the Committee of my hon. Friend, Mr Sankaran Unni, is enough to put forward the Janmi point of view ably enough. If they do not happen to be satisfied with it, they are at liberty to wait on a deputation on the Select Committee and the Committee, I daresay, will be prepared to hear their case. Not only that. There is still another opportunity when the Bill comes up before the Council, the representatives of landed aristocracy will be here to discuss, oppose or support as they think proper, any provision of the Bill. It is therefore unfortunate that such a motion should be made and it is really, undesirable that the healthy convention which we have established and have been following for some time in constituting Select Commitees, should be upset for the sake of a few members who, as I have already said, were in this Council and could have raised the objection then. I hope the House will seriously consider the position and vote against the motion."

* The hon. Mr. A. Y. G. CAMPBELL:—"Mr. President, I should only like to mention that when I was choosing the names of members to be put on this Committee, I received a representation from the janmis asking that Mr. Sankaran Unni should be added to the Committee. That was the only name proposed to me by the janmis. He was not then a member of the Council and so I requested His Excellency the Governor to be good enough to nominate him to the Council in order that he might be added to the Select Committee. As has been pointed out, I consulted the leaders of all parties in the House, showed them the list of names and told them that besides those who were actually on the list, there would be two expert members. I may mention in fairness to the leaders of the parties that in deference to my suggestion, the leader of more than one party was good enough to withdraw one or two names from the list which he originally submitted to me for consideration in order that the Committee should not become too unwieldy. We have now got on this Committee, with these two names added, as many as 24 members. As I have already explained in making my original motion for referring the Bill to a Select Committee, we have endeavoured not only to make it representative of the tenants and janmis but also to include representatives from other parts of the Presidency. If the janmis wished to have more representatives from elsewhere in the Presidency and if they had made representation before the names were put before the House, I should, of course, have given their suggestions very careful consideration in consultation with the leaders of various parties. But I deprecate very much the addition of further names at this stage."

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* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" The question is :

'*That the following names be added to the list of members of the Selec Committee on the Malabar Tenancy Bill* :—

Mr. T. C. Srinivasa Ayyangar,
Raja of Kallikote,
Kumararaja of Venkatagiri, and
The Zamindar of Seithur'

The motion was put and lost.

The motion of the hon. the Revenue Member was put and adopted.

IV

DEMANDS FOR SUPPLEMENTARY GRANTS FOR 1929-30.

GRANT XXXI—CIVIL WORKS—TRANSFERRED.

The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" The Council will now resume discussion of the motion of Mr. Nagan Gowda."

* Mr. J. A. SALDANHA :—" Mr. President, I was saying yesterday that I wanted to know the policy on which the hon. the Minister has been proceeding in the matter of taking over roads formerly maintained by district boards. So far as I am able to see, I cannot find any reasonable or fair or equitable policy. Government have already taken over two roads in Malabar and they have proceeded now to take over this third one in the district of Coimbatore. The only policy I can see from my experience for the last one or two years in this respect seems to be a policy of racial discrimination, discrimination in the interests of a particular class for whom the Ministry have entertained feelings of favouritism. It is a case of favouring British vested interests, the European planting interest, whereas when the question of taking over certain roads which would benefit the Indian planters, the Government have flatly refused even a small grant of Rs. 15,000. It is, of course, said that the matter is under consideration and that for some technical reason or other it is being delayed. But in the present case, the Government come forward with alacrity and evident anxiety to take over the management of a road at enormous cost. Sir, it is common knowledge that the cost incurred by the Government through the Public Works Department on the maintenance of roads is far, far higher than that spent by district boards in that respect. In some case, I find that the Government have spent over Rs. 2,000 per mile. Yet they are reluctant to make a grant of Rs. 1,000 on this behalf to the district boards. On behalf of the district boards, I wish to assure the Government that any amount that Government are willing to grant is as a rule being carefully spent and the ordinary roads could be better maintained by the district boards at less cost. I submit therefore there is no reason why partiality should be shown to any particular road in this way. There must be some uniform policy based on reasonable grounds. Sir, we have got before us the report of the Committee on Road Development appointed by the Government of India under the chairmanship of Mr. Jayakar. Unfortunately, I was not able to get hold of a copy of it at the present time. It is available neither in the Council library nor in the Secretariat library. But I remember having read extracts from the report which would go to show the supreme necessity for a forward policy on the part of the Government in the matter of improvement of roads. I am really anxious that Government should take over certain class of roads which require extraordinary treatment but there should be a uniform policy to be followed.